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The birds were first trained to search for food indiscriminately in the various chambers, and then developing an odor in the chamber containing the food record was kept as to whether or not the bird entered this chamber in preference to any of the others. The experiments were repeated a number of times and with different odorous materials. Although the birds never learned to find their food with perfect accuracy, it was evident that they were guided to some extent by at least one of the materials used; the percentage of correct entrances being notably larger than would have been expected according to the law of error.

Dr. Strong concludes that birds have a sense of smell, which in some species at least is more acute than in man. He agrees with Turner that the development of keen vision in birds is being accompanied by a degeneration of the olfactory sense, and further suggests that a mutual relation between the olfactory and visual senses may exist, which makes it very difficult for a bird to react to an olfactory stimulus only.

The literature of the subject is considered but in the case of published field observations the author says the chances of error in interpretation are so great that they have little value.

Dr. Strong has made a welcome contribution to a much mooted question, and has started a line of investigation which may be followed with profit by others. With a clear understanding of the difficulties as set forth by him and a constant check on unwarranted inference, it would seem that field observations of real value should be possible.—W. S.

**Lowe's 'A Naturalist on Desert Islands.'**<sup>1</sup>—The author here presents an account of visits to some of the remote and unfamiliar islands of the Caribbean Sea—Swan Island, Blanquilla and The Hermanos. The physical features of the islands, their inhabitants, their geological history and the origin of their fauna and flora are treated entertainingly along with the narrative of the voyage, making an interesting and readable volume. The ornithological results of the cruise have already been published elsewhere, but many observations on bird-life are given here in a more popular and detailed manner. Among the illustrations are photographs of Boobies and Frigate Birds and several maps.—W. S.

**Lechner's 'Oologia Neerlandica.'**<sup>2</sup>—Part I of this work,<sup>2</sup> which was announced in the July Auk, is now at hand. It comprises text for sixty-

<sup>1</sup> A Naturalist | on Desert Islands | By | Percy R. Lowe, B. A., M. B. (Cantab.) | Member of the British Ornithologists' Union | With thirty-two plates and three maps | Witherby & Co. | 326 High Holborn, London | 1911 — 8vo, pp. xli + 300. 7s. 6d. net.

<sup>2</sup> Oologia Neerlandica | Eggs | of | Birds | Breeding in the Netherlands | By | A. A. Van Pelt Lechner | Member of the Board of the "Nederlandsche Ornithologische Vereeniging" | (Netherland Ornithological Society) | With colored plates made direct from specimens | in the author's collection | vignette | The Hague | Martinus Nijhoff | 1911. Small 4°. 250 copies printed of which 100 are in English. Part I, (Sept., 1911) comprises Plates 1-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 23, 25, 27-29, 33-35, 37, 39-44, 46, 47, 76, 83, 84. Price £1.10 net.